

# Mimulus Memo



## Native-Plant Gardening *The Learning Curve*

by Monica Tudor

MARCH 2013

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LOOKING AT MY GARDEN NOW, YOU'D NEVER SUSPECT THAT I am really a plant-killer, somewhat reformed. My California garden is now even overgrown in some areas – hiding the painful memories of dozens and dozens of plants that met their demise at my hands. I could probably supply a small nursery with a year's worth of plastic pots, except that I make a point of recycling them to hide the evidence.

Through trial and error, observation and experimentation, I've learned what will (usually) grow and what won't, how to water and where to plant.

Remember, the garden started out as a horse corral. Horse manure and vegetables do marvelous things together. Horse manure and California native plants do not. Perhaps a more science-minded person could tell me if it was the manure or the urine or the alkali that did the natives in. In any case, some of the fatalities were

certainly caused by over- or under-watering the plants. Although I tried to place the plants in a suitable site, some were simply doomed by being selected for the wrong garden. "Full sun" on a plant label does not always mean full sun in Bakersfield, even for a native.

The casualty rate during the first summer was about 90%. First to die were the toyons and manzanitas. The blue oak hung in for a year and then croaked too. Half of the sages clung to life but were looking



The happy survivors.

Photo: Monica Tudor



## The Learning Curve (Continued)

Photo: Monica Tudor



Cheerful color combos: *Salvia chamaedryoides* (Germander sage); an annual re-seeding red salvia and *Achillea millefolium* (common yarrow)

around desperately for someone who would rescue them. Well, you get the idea. My learning curve was a wild looking roller coaster. The second winter after I planted the garden, Bakersfield was blessed with an exceptional amount of rain, which probably leached out the ground. The garden began to improve every year. At this point, any new plants have a pretty good chance of survival, but I'd be lying if I said I had it all figured out, even now, coming through the fourth winter.

But enough of the lamentations. The point is that a garden can grow any-

where; it is a matter of dirt, selecting the right plants and learning how to care for them. Through trial and error, observation and experimentation, I've learned what will (usually) grow and what won't, how to water and where to plant. Most of the garden's plants look pretty happy; some are exuberant! Even though this year's colder winter has caused some die-back, every event teaches me more about the plants in my garden.

I'm still trying to grow manzanitas. I'll keep you posted.

Photo: Monica Tudor



*Baileya multiradiata* (desert marigold)

*Thank you to:*

Sasha Honig, Clyde Golden and Dorie Giragosian, for providing refreshments at our February meeting.

Rich Spjut, for expert keying instruction and help at the February meeting.

Anna Jacobsen and Brandon Pratt, for an engaging program on fire, chaparral and Mediterranean-type ecosystems..

*All* of the people who offered to take on a task to keep Kern CNPS moving forward.



Visit our **new** website at **kern.cnps.org**.  
There you can find:

- Plant Lists
- Field Trips
- Events
- Contacts
- Wildflower information
- Plant Sales
- Upcoming events
- Photos
- Newsletter archive
- and **more!**



## FIELD TRIPS

**K**ERN CNPS FIELD TRIPS are open to all. Occasionally, numbers will be limited by the land owners or agencies. We welcome you to join us to see and learn about our native plants and their habitats, to learn to identify plants, or to photograph them. If you are skilled in plant identification, you can help us all learn.

Please always dress in layers, wear boots or shoes you can hike in and bring food and water. You may also want to bring a hat, sunscreen, binoculars, camera, plant lists and useful references such as *Kern County Flora* and the *Jepson Manual*, or any book you like. We try to meet at a spot where we can park some cars and carpool to our location to save the air, the gas, the money and make sure that on a “roadside” trip that we will have adequate space to park. CNPS does not arrange car pools; each person does so at the meeting place.

**All trips are by reservation only**, so we know whom to expect, and how many will be attending each field trip. Each trip will have the contact person listed. **Please e-mail the contact person by two days before the field trip and indicate the names of those who will attend.**



**IMPORTANT:** *If your or your party's plans change and you will not be attending, it is critical - for both safety, planning and courtesy reasons - that you call or e-mail the contact person and let him/her know you will not be there.*

**March 9, Saturday, 7:30 am**

TEJON RANCH, COMANCHE POINT

Contact: Lucy Clark - [lucyg391@gmail.com](mailto:lucyg391@gmail.com)

RSVP Deadline: **8 pm, March 7, 2013**

The Tejon Ranch Conservancy has invited us back to the Ranch for what we hope will be an outstanding spring bloom on March 9 to Comanche Point (600'-1,200' elevation). We'll work on creating a plant list during the field trip, so come prepared to key. Or just view! ***Pets and smoking are not allowed on Tejon Ranch.*** You may want to bring along the Tejon Ranch Plant List available on our chapter web site: [kern.cnps.org](http://kern.cnps.org), as well as your *Kern County Flora*, *Jepson Manual*, and any other references that may be appropriate. We might have the opportunity to see Bakersfield cactus in bloom, Comanche Point layia, cottony buckwheat, striped adobe lily, gypsum-loving larkspur, possibly Tejon poppy and Kern mallow, all listed plants.

Road conditions may cancel this trip; but we are hoping not. If you have a four-wheel drive or AWD, please bring it to help fellow members. Please notify Lucy at [lucyg391@gmail.com](mailto:lucyg391@gmail.com) if you plan to attend, by 8 pm the previous Thursday, the 7th. We have to inform them of numbers.

Meet at the Park & Ride lot at the corner of Real Road and Stockdale Highway, at 7:30 am to carpool. If coming from the east, meet at 8:45 am at the gate of the Tejon Ranch for the Comanche Point trip. **Please be prompt**, as the gates must be locked once everyone arrives, for the group to start.

### DIRECTIONS:

To get there from Bakersfield, we will take HWY 99 south to HWY 223, turn east to Arvin, and then turn south on South Derby Road/Tejon Highway. Tejon Highway dead ends into Herring Road/Comanche Point Road. Turn left (east) on Comanche Point Road and follow it around to the Tejon Ranch gate. Please be there at 8:45 am.

From points east, go west on HWY 58 and exit at HWY 223. At South Derby Road/Tejon Highway, turn south (left) and go through Arvin to the dead end at Herring Road/Comanche Point Road. Turn east (left again) on Comanche Point Road, and follow it around to the Tejon Ranch gate. Please be there at 8:45 am.



Photo: Rich Spjut

Tejon Ranch, March, 2012 — in a field of *Plagiobothrys nothofulvus* (rusty popcorn flower).

**March 23rd, Saturday, 7:45 am**

RED ROCK CANYON STATE PARK

with **Mark Faull**Contact: Lucy Clark - [lucyg391@gmail.com](mailto:lucyg391@gmail.com)RSVP Deadline: **8 pm, March 21, 2013**

Come to see what this lovely desert park has for us this spring! **Mark Faull**, now retired, was the longtime ranger there and he compiled a plant list during his tenure. He has expertise on many of the resources in the park including archeology and paleontology. He will lead us on a walk to the treasures of RRCSP! Depending on the rains between now and then, we may see: *Deinandra arida* (Red Rock tarplant), endemic to the state park, *Eschscholzia minutiflora twisselmannii* (the Red Rock poppy), endemic to the El Paso and Rand mountains, *Phacelia nashiana* (Charlotte's phacelia), a beautiful blue limited-range watch plant, and a new, yet unnamed species of monkey flower (we used to think of it as *Mimulus palmeri*). There are restrooms at the Visitors' Center.

**NOTE:** As of Feb. 6, 2013, Mark Faull reports there has been little rainfall in the desert and the plant displays may well be sparse. However, the field trip WILL STILL take place as there is much interesting geology to see at Red Rock Canyon State Park and Mark is also familiar with the archaeology and paleontology of the area.

Please meet at Taco Bell at the SE corner of Hwy's 58 and 184 (Weedpatch Hwy) at 7:45 am for carpooling. After checking maps and choosing car-pools, we will leave promptly at 8:00 am. This will be a full-day trip. Please RSVP by deadline to contact listed above.

**March 30<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, 8:30 am**

SAND RIDGE PRESERVE

Contact: Lucy Clark - [lucyg391@gmail.com](mailto:lucyg391@gmail.com)RSVP Deadline: **8 pm, March 28, 2013**

This preserve was saved by the first president of Kern CNPS, **Jack Zaninovich**, of Delano. It is now cared for by the Center for Land Management; see the website [http://www.cnlm.org/cms/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=68&Itemid=214](http://www.cnlm.org/cms/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=68&Itemid=214). Sand Ridge is an island of desert plants in the southern San Joaquin Valley. Some of the plants we hope to see are the *Opuntia basilaris var treleasei* (Bakersfield cactus), among the blooming annuals, *Caulanthus coulteri* (Coulter's jewelflower), *Chaenactis glabriuscula* (yellow pincushion, golden girls), *Malacothrix glabrata* (desert dandelion), *Nicotiana quadrivalvis* (Indian tobacco), and the beautiful *Salvia carduacea* (thistle sage). **Ellen Cypher's Plant List** is on our website.

Please meet at the Taco Bell at the SE corner of Hwy's 58 and 184 (Weedpatch Hwy) at 8:30 am for carpooling. We will leave promptly at 8:45 am. If you know the Preserve, you may meet us at the entrance at 9:00 am. We plan a 3-hour (plus or minus) visit, although if you want to stay longer, bring a lunch. There are **no** restrooms. The trail is gradual, and is appropriate for children or seniors, and short enough that you could leave early if you get tired. Please RSVP by deadline to contact listed above.



Red Rock Canyon State Park



**April 6<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, 7:15 am****SHELL CREEK ROAD AREA**with the **San Luis Obispo Chapter**Contact: Patty Gradek - [pattygradek@gmail.com](mailto:pattygradek@gmail.com)RSVP Deadline: **8 pm, April 4, 2013**

This area is to the northwest of the Carrizo Plain National Monument and has a spectacular abundance and variety of wildflowers in a good rainfall year. We are joining members of the San Luis Obispo Chapter on their annual visit to this site.

Please RSVP by deadline to contact listed above. Meet at the parking lot of the BLM office at 3801 Pegasus Drive at 7:15 am for carpooling. We will leave promptly at 7:30 am. This will be a full-day trip since the drive to the site is at least two hours.

**April 13<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, 8:30 am****CARRIZO PLAIN NATIONAL MONUMENT**  
with Denis KearnsContact: Patty Gradek - [pattygradek@gmail.com](mailto:pattygradek@gmail.com)RSVP Deadline: **8 pm, April 11, 2013**

**Denis Kearns**, BLM Botanist, will lead us on the trip to the Carrizo Plain National Monument. This trip will be **limited to 20 people** due to limits prescribed for such tours in the BLM Management Plan. Therefore, if you want to attend we suggest you contact Patty Gradek at [pattygradek@gmail.com](mailto:pattygradek@gmail.com) early, because no more than 20 will be allowed to participate.

The Carrizo Plain is a magical, beautiful place – especially in the spring. We may see fiddleneck, filaree, tidy tips, thistle sage, owl's clover, encelia, eriophyllum, Parry's mallow and larkspur. Denis may have us assist with plant monitoring for a portion of the day.

Please meet at the parking lot of the BLM office at 3801 Pegasus Drive at 8:30 am for carpooling. It will be best to use four-wheel drive or high-clearance vehicles to get to some of the special sites. We will leave promptly at 8:45 am. This will be a full-day field trip. There are restrooms at the Visitor Center.

**April 20<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, 7:45 am****SAN JOAQUIN RIVER GORGE**with **Denis Kearns**Contact: Denis Kearns - [dkearns@blm.gov](mailto:dkearns@blm.gov)➤ RSVP Deadline: **8 pm, April 1, 2013** ◀

**Denis Kearns**, BLM Botanist, will be leading a "Bioblitz" to generate a vouchered species list for BLM's San Joaquin River Gorge in Fresno County. This is a beautiful BLM area above Millerton Lake.

It is an approximately 3-hour drive to reach the area, so this will be a full day field trip. There are BLM camping facilities in the area so participants might wish to camp overnight on their own. Field trip participants need to register with Denis ([dkearns@blm.gov](mailto:dkearns@blm.gov)) by April 1st.

This year the "Bioblitz" focuses on plants, but entomologists are also welcome. CNPS members, professional botanists and other scientists are invited. For information on the Gorge see [www.blm.gov/calst/en/fo/bakersfield/Programs/Recreation\\_opportunities/SJRG\\_SRMA.html](http://www.blm.gov/calst/en/fo/bakersfield/Programs/Recreation_opportunities/SJRG_SRMA.html). This will be a great opportunity to learn and to see an area that many of us are not familiar with.

Please meet at the parking lot at the BLM office at 3801 Pegasus Drive at 7:45 am for carpooling. We will leave promptly at 8:00 am. The drive to the Gorge is 3 hours. There are restrooms at the area.

**April 27<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, 8:15 am****DESERT AND WOODLAND TREES AND SHRUBS**  
with **Richard Spjut**Contact: Patty Gradek - [pattygradek@gmail.com](mailto:pattygradek@gmail.com)RSVP Deadline: **8 pm, April 25, 2013**

**Richard Spjut**, who has extensive field experience in East Africa, Western Australia and the southwestern US and Mexico in collecting common plants for pharmaceutical screening programs, will lead a tour within Kern County that will focus on identifying characteristics of common trees and shrubs.

This will be an auto-tour type of field trip with frequent stops to see examples of woody plants associated with the blue oak woodland, bladderpod scrub, tentatively Tucker woodland and ephedra (*E. viridis*) scrub, scale broom scrub, creosote scrub, salt scrub, pinyon-juniper woodland, and Joshua Tree woodland. The trip will travel east on Highway 58, then north along a portion of Highway 14,



San Joaquin River Gorge

Photo: BLM

and then return to Bakersfield on Highway 178, traveling over Walker Pass and through the Kern River Canyon. This will be a full-day trip and it will be important to avoid the temptation of identifying flowering herbs in order to see more variety of trees and shrubs. There will be two or three stops for restrooms.

Richard has prepared a draft of the trees and shrubs of Kern County. Examples for some families with keys to genera, and with links to keys to species on other pages, are presented at [www.worldbotanical.com/trees\\_and\\_shrubs\\_of\\_kern\\_county.htm](http://www.worldbotanical.com/trees_and_shrubs_of_kern_county.htm). You may also want to consult Nature Alley's images of Trees of Kern County by Alison Sheehey at [www.natureali.org/guides/KC\\_trees.htm](http://www.natureali.org/guides/KC_trees.htm).

Please meet at the parking lot at the BLM office at 3801 Pegasus Drive at 8:15 am for carpooling. We will leave promptly at 8:30 am and will return by approximately 5:00 pm. Please RSVP by deadline to contact listed above.

#### May 4, Saturday, 8am

ANNUAL VISIT TO CEDAR CREEK & THE GREENHORN FRITILLARY

Contact: Lucy Clark - [lucyg391@gmail.com](mailto:lucyg391@gmail.com)

RSVP Deadline: 8 pm, May 2, 2013

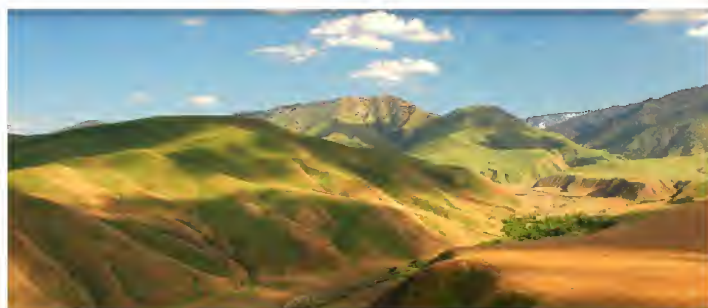
Join us for a walk along a favorite trail with Pink Fairy Lanterns, *Calochortus amoenus*, 5 species of *Nemophila*, the only barberry native to Kern, *Berberis aquafolium*, and many other beautiful taxa on this level and lovely trail in the Sequoia Forest. We will look for the Rare to Endangered (in CA) *Fritillaria brandegei* (Greenhorn fritillary), although no guar-

antees, as its life is short, due to grazing. There is a possible creek crossing at the first part of the trail, but we will get you across! The up-dated plant list is available at [kern.cnps.org](http://kern.cnps.org)!

Meet at the Denny's/ Starbucks on the corner of Merle Haggard and HWY 65, at 8 am for carpooling, leaving at 8:10 am, at the latest. Please park away from their doors. We drive up Granite Road to HWY 155 at Glennville, then farther on, park at the

sign for Cedar Creek Campground. We will start walking about 9:30, or when all who have RSVP-ed arrive. Please RSVP to Lucy Clark at [lucyg391@gmail.com](mailto:lucyg391@gmail.com) by 8pm on Thursday, May 2nd, if you plan to attend this most pleasant of springtime trips!

Because this is a straight in and out trail, you would be free to leave when you need to, after alerting the leaders. All those interested in prolonging the day in the foothills could stop on the way home and eat an early dinner in Glennville together.



Wind Wolves Preserve - San Emigdio Canyon

Photo: Wildlands Conservancy

#### May 11, Saturday, 7:30 am

WIND WOLVES PRESERVE

with **Dave Clendenen**

Contact: Lucy Clark - [lucyg391@gmail.com](mailto:lucyg391@gmail.com)

RSVP Deadline: 8 pm, May 9, 2013

**Dave Clendenen**, Wind Wolves Ecologist, will lead us on a driving tour of another favorite Kern County native plant location. We may also enjoy the native critters always seen at Wind Wolves. Wind Wolves is a privately owned nature preserve of almost 100,000 acres, and rises from the valley floor to the top of the Transverse Range. See the website at [http://www.wildlandsconservancy.org/preserve\\_windwolves.html](http://www.wildlandsconservancy.org/preserve_windwolves.html)

We will meet Dave at the headquarters/admin building at 9 am for a brief introduction. For people from Bakersfield, we will carpool from the Park and Drive at Stockdale and Real Road, next to Kaiser Medical Center. Plan to be there at 7:30 am, as we will leave by carpool at 7:45 am. No pets and no smoking are allowed on this trip. We will have lunch along the road, and plan to leave around 3pm.

Dave will drive the WW 15-passenger van for us. If more than 15 people RSVP, we will need help from those of you with high-clearance 4X4, SUV type vehicles, who are experienced in, and expecting



*Calochortus amoenus*  
(pink fairy lanterns)



to be on dirt roads in steep mountainous terrain. We want to be able to get to the higher elevations where things will be blooming.

Please RSVP by deadline to contact listed above for this wonderful trip. When you RSVP, Lucy will send you an attachment of the Wind Wolves Plant List and an Application to Enter. Everyone is responsible for printing the application and submitting their signed Application to Enter at headquarters before we begin our tour. Anyone under the age of 18 years must have one signed by a parent or legal guardian. Please join us for this natural history trip!

**May 25, Saturday, 8AM**

TOP OF RANCHERIA ROAD

with **Clyde Golden**

Contact: Lucy Clark - [lucyg391@gmail.com](mailto:lucyg391@gmail.com)

RSVP Deadline: **8 pm, May 23, 2013**

**Clyde Golden**, our chapter's Rare-Plant Chair, will lead us on a search for new populations of rare plants to report to CA Fish and Wildlife and CNPS. Several rare/endemic plants are found along the road, between HWY 155 and Evans Flat. Possible plants we may see as we drive and search are: *Calochortus westonii* (Shirley Meadows star tulip); *Fritillaria pinetorum* (Pine fritillary); *Gilia leptantha* ssp. *pinetorum* (Pine gilia); and maybe the *F. brandegei* (Greenhorn fritillary). Other interesting plants are *Viola Sheltonii* with its cut leaves and *Sidalcea ranunculacea* (Greenhorn checkerbloom), an endemic.



*Calochortus westonii*  
(Shirley Meadows star tulip)

If the rain was sufficient, we will also drive down Sawmill Road toward Lake Isabella to see *Eriastium tracyi* (Tracy's eriastrum) and *Ceanothus diversifolius* (pine mat).

We will meet at Starbucks/Denny's parking lot on the corner of HWY 65 and Merle Haggard/7th Standard

Road at 8am to arrange carpools and leave at 8:15. We will drive up Granite Road to join HWY 155 at Hassan O's, then continue to the top of Greenhorn Mountain. Here we begin our search for rare plants of the area. We will have lunch along the way, and start back at 4pm.

Please RSVP by deadline to contact listed above if you plan to come to see these special plants (and breathe fresh air). A Rancheria Road Plant List is available on our web site [kern.cnps.org](http://kern.cnps.org).

**June 1, Saturday, 7:45 am**

SADDLE SPRINGS RD. -

PIUTE MOUNTAINS

with **Alison Sheehey**

Contact: Lucy Clark -

[lucyg391@gmail.com](mailto:lucyg391@gmail.com)

RSVP Deadline:

**8 pm, May 30, 2013**

Please join us for the first in a memory trip to the Piutes with **Nature Ali** herself as our guide. We will take Saddle Springs Road, which leads through grassland, chaparral, pinyon-juniper woodland (the burnt remnants of the Piute Cypress Botanical Area), and ponderosa/Jeffrey pine forest. Ali reports the temp drops about 20 degrees along the trip, as we go up to Piute Peak! The entire roadside along the 15 miles of travel is worthy of botanizing. Birds and butterflies are a bonus. Rare plants along the route include the *Streptanthus cordatus* var *piutensis* (Piute jewel flower); *Eriogonum breedlovei* var *breedlovei* (Piute buckwheat); *Delphinium inopinum* (unexpected larkspur); *Hesperocyparsis nevadensis* (Piute cypress); *Calochortus palmeri* (Palmer's mariposa lily) and *Perideridia pringlei* (adobe yampah). This will be an all-day trip, with lunch along the road, and a stop in Brown's meadow, where there are port-a-potties, and maybe the lily. There is no potable water, so bring plenty!

Learn more about the area at this link. <http://www.natureali.org/SQF/cypress.html>

Saddle Springs Road turns off Bodfish-Caliente Road (Lake Isabella Blvd). It is a rough narrow road that has few turnouts, so carpooling is mandatory. High-clearance vehicles are required.



Unexpected Larkspur  
(*Delphinium inopinum*)

Copyright 2009 Alison Sheehey

For carpooling from Bakersfield, please meet at 'Tuesday Morning' at the corner of Auburn and Fairfax at 7:40 am. We leave before 8 am to meet with others in Isabella.

From either the east or west, take Highway 178 to the Bodfish exit, Elizabeth Norris Rd., and turn right. Drive to Lake Isabella Blvd. Participants should rendezvous in the Von's parking lot by 8:45 am, with hopes of leaving by 9 am.

For those from Tehachapi or points south: Take Caliente-Bodfish road north off of HWY 58. The turnoff to Saddle Springs is ~3 miles southwest of the town of Bodfish. It is on a blind curve. There are several wide areas where 3-5 cars can pull out but they are few and far between. The rest of us should arrive shortly after 9, so please be parked near the turnoff to saddle Springs Road by 9:10 am. Lucy will help folks from other areas make contact for carpooling if you wish.

Please RSVP by deadline to contact listed above.  
If you have a high-clearance vehicle and will bring it, please let contact know, so we can provide a ride for all who want to join us.

#### July 13th, Saturday, 8:00 am

MT. PINOS — LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST  
with **Pam DeVries**

Contact: Patty Gradek - [pattygradek@gmail.com](mailto:pattygradek@gmail.com)

RSVP Deadline: **8 pm, July 11, 2013**

Fellow Chapter member **Pam DeVries** will host our mid-summer field trip to the summit of Mt. Pinos in the Los Padres National Forest. (Ed note: Please see Program description for June 20th) It's a beautiful place any time of the year but should be in full flower in July, at over 8,000 feet in elevation. We will drive to the parking lot where the trail to the summit starts. There are port-a-potties at the parking lot. For those who don't want to hike, there are some wet meadow habitats around the parking lot to explore. The hike to the summit is a slow and easy walk. In the 1.5 miles to the summit, one passes through conifer forest habitats and finds a sub-alpine habitat at the top. There is a huge variety of unusual plants on the hike and a spectacular view at the summit. Bring your binoculars since condors are sometimes spot-

ted from the summit. Much of the higher reaches of the mountain are included in the Chumash Wilderness and there is a botanical preserve designated at the summit.

Our host, Pam DeVries, has written a field guide which includes the area we are visiting titled *The Plants of the San Emigdio Region of California*. It is available through Amazon or the CNPS bookstore online. Pam will be the speaker at our meeting on June 20th and we expect that will be an excellent preview for the field trip. Also note that Pam will be giving the same talk, "A Botanical Tour of the San Emigdio Mountains Region of California", at a Sierra Club meeting in Pine Mountain Club on a date to be announced. (See page 10 for description)

Please meet at the Park & Ride lot at the corner of Real Road and Stockdale Highway at 8:00 am to carpool. We will leave by 8:15 am. We will drive south on I-5 and take the Frazier Mountain Park Road exit. Follow the signs to Mt. Pinos and the large parking lot at the end of the road. This will be a full-day trip. Please RSVP by deadline to contact listed above.

Field trips can also be found at [kern.cnps.org/field-trips/upcoming-field-trips](http://kern.cnps.org/field-trips/upcoming-field-trips)

**PRINT OR SAVE THESE DATES TO YOUR CALENDAR!**



Chumash Wilderness, Los Padres National Forest





## Other Field Trip Possibilities

### The “Catch-A-Bloom” Mailing List

IT'S IN THE NATURE OF WILDFLOWER BLOOM to be somewhat unpredictable. For that reason we're compiling an e-mail list of those who are interested in receiving **alerts** about spur-of-the-moment excursions, when we hear that a bloom is occurring somewhere, and we plan to catch a look before it passes. To sign up for “Catch-A-Bloom” e-mail Lucy at [lucyg391@gmail.com](mailto:lucyg391@gmail.com) or Patty at [pattygradek@gmail.com](mailto:pattygradek@gmail.com), putting “Catch-A-Bloom List” in the Subject line.

Similarly, you can alert us to special areas of bloom that you happen to see in your day-to-day ventures. If you are planning a flowering trip on short notice and would welcome fellow CNPS members to join you, please e-mail the information to Lucy and Patty, at [lucyg391@gmail.com](mailto:lucyg391@gmail.com) and [pattygradek@gmail.com](mailto:pattygradek@gmail.com) and we'll get the word out. Please send us:

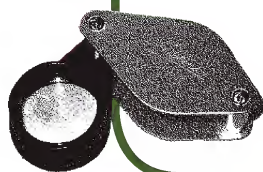
- Location of the field trip
- Date and meeting time
- Your name and e-mail address
- Any other information you want to include



## Mid-Week Field Trips?

SOME OF YOU HAVE EXPRESSED AN INTEREST in mid-week field trips. Currently, field trips are planned for Saturdays since we assume more people are available on a Saturday. If you would prefer mid-week trips over Saturdays, please e-mail Lucy and Patty and let them know which days of the week are preferable.

Lucy at [lucyg391@gmail.com](mailto:lucyg391@gmail.com)  
Patty at [pattygradek@gmail.com](mailto:pattygradek@gmail.com)



## Chapter Meetings

### upcoming TOPICS

**Thursday, March 21, 2013 7 pm:**

**Lauren Brown**, member, San Luis Obispo Chapter of CNPS will speak on “*Plant Communities and Representative Plants of the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes.*” The dunes contain the largest undisturbed coastal dune tract in California. Five major plant communities are represented and the habitat supports numerous rare and endangered plants and animals.

**Thursday, April 18, 2013 7 pm:**

**Rich Spjut** will give a program on Kern trees and shrubs (see April 27th field trip)

**Thursday, May 16, 2013 7 pm:**

**Dave Clendenen**,  
Wildlands Conservancy  
“*Wind Wolves Preserve - Native Plants and Grazing Management*”.

**Thursday, June 20, 2013 7 pm:**

**Pam DeVries** “*A Botanical Tour of the San Emigdio Mountains Region of California*” This will be a good preview of our field trip scheduled for July 13th – a hike to the summit of Mt. Pinos in the Los Padres Natl. Forest.

All chapter meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Hall Ambulance Community Room 1031 21st Street (21st & N St.), Bakersfield, CA.

Meeting times:

6 pm — Plant keying and  
identification

7 pm — Program presentation

## Related Events — Local & Statewide:

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### LEARNING ~

#### HISTORY & GEOLOGY OF RED ROCK CANYON

Saturday, March 2, 2013 - 3 pm  
Buena Vista Museum of Natural History  
Bakersfield, CA - Reservations recommended  
Presenter: Tim Elam

**R**ED ROCK CANYON, IN NORTHEASTERN Kern County, is a stunning example of layers of rock exposed by erosion. Pink, red, orange, and other colored volcanic and sedimentary rocks contrast with black volcanic rocks erupted millions of years ago. Easily-eroded rocks contrast with hard-to-erode rocks, revealing spires, rills, and other unusual shapes. Awesome and colorful, this isolated canyon through the El Paso Mountains has drawn Native Americans, explorers, tourists, artists, geologists, and fortune-hunters for centuries. You have probably seen Red Rock Canyon on television or in a movie. Red Rock Canyon has been a California State Park since 1968, and in 1994, the park tripled in size.

But there is much more to the Red Rock Canyon story than beautiful scenery. Though now part of the desert, Red Rock Canyon was once inhabited by woolly mammoths, horses, giraffe-like camels, and luxuriant plant life that lived in an area with abundant water. Remains of these life forms, fossils, make Red Rock Canyon a world-class paleontology location.

How did Red Rock Canyon form? Why is it there? What events have shaped the rich cultural and geological history of Red Rock Canyon?

Join local geologist **Tim Elam** as he takes you on a rich photographic tour of the geology and history of the Red Rock Canyon.

The presentation will be informal, and no geologic background is necessary to enjoy the event. There will be no extra charge for attending this event, just the normal museum entrance fee and there is no charge for BV Museum members.

**Directions:** BVMNH is located between 20th and 21st street at 2018 Chester Ave, Bakersfield CA

**Admission:** Child \$4, Adult \$7, Seniors \$5 and Students 18 and older \$5

For more information or reservations call 661-324-6350 or visit [www.sharktoothhill.org](http://www.sharktoothhill.org).

### LEARNING ~

#### A BOTANICAL TOUR SAN EMIGDIO MOUNTAINS REGION OF CALIFORNIA

Date: To Be Announced  
Condor Group-Sierra Club  
Pine Mountain Clubhouse  
Presenter: Pam DeVries

**T**HE SAN EMIGDIO MOUNTAINS REGION is situated at the junction of several distinct geographic ecoregions including the Mojave Desert, the Transverse Ranges, the Coast Ranges, and the Great Central Valley. This pictorial tour of the rich and varied flora of the region includes a visit to the lower-elevation wildflower fields of the Gorman Hills off Interstate 5, renowned for their brilliant spring displays. We will also visit Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge, where California condors are often in view and the federally listed Kern mallow (*Eremalche parryi* subsp. *kernensis*) grows at its highest known elevation. Next is a quick trip through the region's juniper and oak woodlands before climbing in elevation to the pinyon/Jeffrey pine forests and sub-alpine habitats of Frazier Mountain and Mount Pinos. Finally, we'll check out riparian and seep habitats, Western blue flag meadows (*Iris missouriensis*), and visit a high elevation vernal pool with its infrequent display of Hoover's calico flower (*Downingia bella*). Photographs of common and rare plants will be presented, along with maps showing access points and trail information.

#### Directions:

From I-5, take the Frazier Mountain Park Road exit and head west approximately 12 miles, passing the towns of Frazier Park, Lake of the Woods, and Pinyon Pines (in Cuddy Valley). Turn right on Mil Potrero Road toward Pine Mountain Club and travel about 5 miles to the town of Pine Mountain Club. The driveway entry to the clubhouse just past the golf course on the right (north) side of the road. The Condor Room is located behind the pool and lounge areas.

From the 33/166, take the Cerro Noroeste Road turn-off (just south of Soda Lake Road) toward Pine Mountain Club. The town is about 22 miles from the turnoff (the name of the road changes somewhere along here to Mil Potrero Road). It takes about an hour to get there from Bakersfield.



## FIELD TRIP ~

CNPS-SAN LUIS OBISPO  
ANNUAL HIKE TO COREOPSIS HILL  
GUADALUPE-NIPOMO DUNES

Saturday, March 16, 2013 - 9:10 am

Leaders: Lauren Brown,  
Dirk Walters, et al.

**T**HE SAN LUIS OBISPO CHAPTER OF CNPS presents our annual hike to Coreopsis Hill (in the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes), Saturday, March 16th, 2013, sponsored by CNPS, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and The Dunes Center; led by local botanists. The hike will begin about 9:30 AM (please plan to arrive between 9:10 and 9:30) at Beigle Road and will be a casual walk through the dunes to the top of Coreopsis Hill. This is a moderate hike, about 3 hours round-trip. Dress in layers, bring water and snacks, and have your "*Dune Mother's Wildflower Guide*" by Dr. Malcolm McLeod for the trip. For more information call **Lauren Brown** at 805-460-6329 or 805-570-7993. Heavy rain cancels this trip (light rain, bring appropriate clothing).

**Directions from the north:** Take HWY 101 south from San Luis Obispo. Turn right (west) at the new Willow Road off-ramp (Exit 180). Proceed west on Willow Road for about 4.3 miles, to Highway 1. Turn left (south) on Highway 1 and proceed for 2.7 miles, to Oso Flaco Lake Road. Turn right (west) on Oso Flaco Lake Road. Proceed west on Oso Flaco Lake Road for 2.5 miles to Beigle Road. Look for a 6' tall wire mesh fence and galvanized steel gate.

**Parking:** We will have people posted at the entrance of the USFWS fenced road to direct parking. The gate will be open by 9:10 and closed at 9:30. Please be on time as this gate will be locked during the hike. The Oso Flaco Lake State Park lot is several miles west of Beigle Road, if you need to use a restroom before the hike (there are none along the hike route). Parking along Oso Flaco Lake Road is hazardous and should be avoided. **Note:** Pets, tobacco products, or alcohol are not allowed on the refuge, including the parking area. Pets may not be left in cars in the refuge parking area.

## CONFERENCE ~

OPEN REGISTRATION &  
CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS  
NATURAL COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE  
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Thursday, March 28, 2013

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

California State University, Bakersfield  
Dorothy Donahoe Hall, GJ102  
Check-in starts at 8:00 a.m.

**T**HE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CHAPTER of The Wildlife Society (TWS) is pleased to announce an open registration for our annual **Natural Communities Conference**. The event will be held **Thursday, March 28, 2013** on the CSU-Bakersfield campus. This year for the first time we're able to offer advance registration payment by credit card using PayPal's services. We've offered this for our last two workshops and it's worked really well for us and hopefully is an added convenience for you. We hope you'll attend, and even consider sharing something about the work that you do. Remember that while our chapter area covers the San Joaquin Valley, we also extend into the Sierras, the western Mojave, and the coastal mountains. There's a lot going on out there!

Please register by **March 22nd\***, and if you'll be presenting we'd appreciate having abstracts by **March 15th**. All registration forms, abstracts, and event questions can be directed to Chapter Representative Linda Connolly at [lindatws@hotmail.com](mailto:lindatws@hotmail.com).

#### Registration Rates

Chapter Members: \$30.00

Nonmembers: \$35.00

Students: \$10.00

Presenters: Free

(Nonmember rate includes membership)

- Presentations are **limited to 20 minutes**, including time for questions and answers.
- Please e-mail abstracts no later than **March 15th** in order for us to get them compiled for distribution at the conference. Please e-mail abstracts to: Linda Connolly, Chapter Representative [lindatws@hotmail.com](mailto:lindatws@hotmail.com).

\* The registration form and more information are available on-line at [joomla.wildlife.org/SanJoaquin/](http://joomla.wildlife.org/SanJoaquin/)



## Mimulus Memo

**Inside this Issue:**

SPRING & EARLY-SUMMER FIELD TRIP DATES & DESCRIPTIONS  
NATIVE-PLANT GARDENING  
MEETING PLACE, DATES & TOPICS

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The Kern Chapter of the California Native Plant Society meets the third Thursday of each month at Hall Ambulance Community Room, 1013 21st St. (21st & N St), Bakersfield, CA. Chapter Website: [kern.cnps.org](http://kern.cnps.org)

*The California Native Plant Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of California's native plants and their natural habitats, and to increasing the understanding, appreciation, and horticultural use of native plants. CNPS has 31 chapters throughout the state and membership is open to all persons, professional and amateur,, with an interest in California's native plants. Members have diverse interests including natural history, botany, ecology, conservation, photography, drawing, hiking and gardening. As a Kern County resident, your membership includes Eremontia, a quarterly journal with articles on all aspects of native plants; the Bulletin, a statewide report of activities and schedules; and The Mimulus Memo, the newsletter of the Kern Chapter.*

Join CNPS or renew your membership online at [www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org).

Student/ Limited Income – \$25

Individual – \$45

Family or Library – \$75